

## Abstract of the Disclosure

A system of bill presentment and bill payment. The parties to the process, which  
5 typically include the bill presenter, bill payer, and bank, credit card company or other  
intermediary, select from a number of choices in the selection of information to include in the  
bill, preparation of the bill, acceptable payment methods, means to send the bill and bill  
payment instrument, means of signing the bill, bill payment instrument, receipt acknowledging  
deposit and payment, method of recording and reconciling payments, and further actions. An  
10 accumulation of choices by the involved parties can include digital information in each step  
that represents all of the significant data accumulated up to and including that step. That  
digital data preferably includes digital signatures of each party at each step so as to provide  
an audit trail in purely digital form. Where digital data is chosen for each step, the digital  
data can be electronic or, using machine readable code, printed on paper, regardless of the  
15 form chosen in prior or later steps.